REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-29 have been canceled and new claims 30-43 have been added. Claims 30-39 are related generally to the invention covered in U.S. Patent No. 5,563,390 to the same inventor, and claims 40-43 are related generally to the invention covered in U.S. Patent No. 5,417,370.

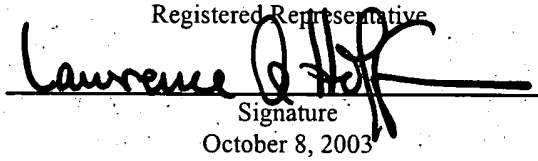
Examination on the merits of the present application is courteously requested.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV 343678146 US with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 8, 2003:

Lawrence A Hoffman

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative



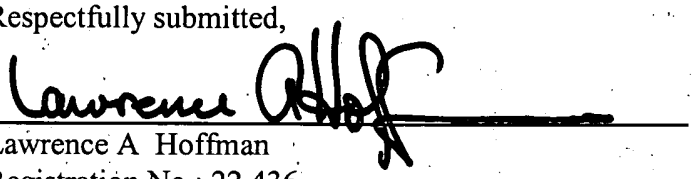
Signature

October 8, 2003

Date of Signature

LAH:sks

Respectfully submitted,



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